



Education and work opportunities in Finland

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Education system

- Education system in Finland has no tuition fees and serves meals for primary - and secondary school students.
- Usually starts with a pre-school a.k.a kindergarten when you turn 6.
- After pre-school you go to comprehensive school for 9 years
- From comprehensive school you either go to an academic track or a vocational track
- After three years in an academic or a vocational track, you go to tertiary education, university or polytechnic
- These usually take from 2 to 5 years to complete

Academic degrees	Vocational degrees	Typical ages
doctor	employment	
licentiate		
master	master (new)	+2-3
bachelor	bachelor	+3-4
upper secondary school (voluntary)	vocational school (voluntary)	18-19
		17-18
		16-17
comprehensive school (compulsory)		15-16
		14-15
		13-14
		12-13
		11-12
		10-11
		9-10
		8-9
		7-8
pre-school		6-7

Finnish upper secondary schools in general

- Upper secondary school studies usually take **3 or 4 years**.
- Students are usually between ages 16 and 19 years.
- Total number of courses is at minimum **75** which consists of **47-51 compulsory courses** and at least 10 national specialization courses.
- A school year is usually divided into **5 or 6 periods** and during each period students concentrate on certain subjects they have chosen.
- There is **an exam week** after each period, when the students have exams of the subjects they have studied in the period.
- As the upper secondary school is **non-graded** and each student chooses courses independently, studying is **individual** and each student plans their own timetable.
- At the end of upper secondary school studies the students take **the matriculation examination**.

Upper secondary school: time allocation framework

Subject or subject group	Number of compulsory courses	Number of advanced courses (minimum) offered by the school
Finnish/Swedish	6	3
Foreign languages		
Language studied in Years 1-6 of comprehensive school (A language)	6	2
Language studied in Years 7-9 of comprehensive school (B language)	5	2
Other languages		16
Mathematics		
Basic course	6	2
Advanced course	10	3
Environment and natural sciences		
Biology	2	3
Geography	2	2
Physics	1	7
Chemistry	1	4
Moral subjects		
Religion/ethics	3	2
Philosophy	1	3
Psychology	1	4
History	4	2
Social Studies	2	2
Arts		3
Music	1-2	3
Visual arts	1-2	3
Physical education	2	3
Health education	1	2
Educational & vocational guidance	1	
Advanced courses, minimum (from those offered)	10	
Compulsory courses	47-51	
Min. total of specialization courses	10	
Applied courses	(to be added to reach the minimum total)	
Minimum total requirement	75	

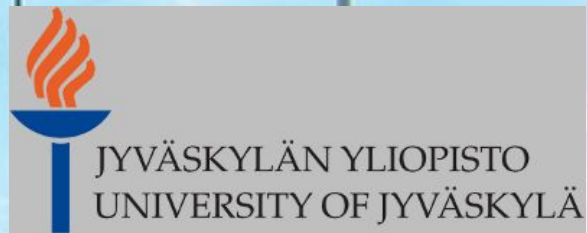
Source: Finland Eurydice Unit, 2005.

Matriculation examination



- Matriculation examination provides eligibility to apply to higher education institutions.
- The purpose of the examination is to discover whether students have assimilated the knowledge and skills required by the curriculum for the upper secondary school.
- Matriculation examination consists of at least 4 compulsory exams, but it is also possible to take more optional exams.
- The exam in the candidate's mother tongue is obligatory for everyone. The rest of 3 compulsory exams must be chosen out of these 4 subjects: the second domestic language (Swedish or Finnish), a foreign language (usually English), mathematics (advanced or basic) and general studies (e.g. biology, history or physics).
- Examination is held twice a year, in spring (February/March) and in autumn (September/October), in all Finnish upper secondary schools, at the same time.
- A student can divide the examination into three consecutive periods.

Study opportunities (University of Jyväskylä)



- There are 14 universities in Finland and the nearest university to Äänekoski is the University of Jyväskylä
- The university has nearly 15 000 students
- There are Bachelor's programmes in Jyväskylä, but only in Finnish (so you have to be able to study in Finnish)
- If you have studied to Bachelor's degree in your own country, you can apply to Master's programme
- Master's programmes are also available in English in JYU
- Application period for Master's programme is in January/February
- Studying at universities is totally free, tuition fees are only for non-EU citizens (around 8 000 and 12 000 EUR per year)



7 FACULTIES:

- Education
- Humanities
- Information Technology
- Mathematics and Science
- Social Sciences
- Sport and Health Sciences
- School of Business and Economics



Study opportunities (Polytechnic of Jyväskylä)

- **Polytechnic of Jyväskylä is the nearest Polytechnic of our school in Äänekoski and the school has approx. 8500 students and a 700 person group of different staff members**
- **A foreigner student has to pay his/her own expenses, but it is possible for him/her to get a sponsorship from the foreigners own country**
- **A year in Polytechnic of Jyväskylä doesn't cost anything for EU-citizens but for non-EU students it costs 8000€**
- **A foreigner gets assigned a tutor in Finland to help with the Finnish ways, for example with banking, living and going to the store etc.**

- ICT
- Culture
- Business Administration
- Natural Resources and the Environment
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Social Services and Health Care
- Technology and Transport



Work opportunities

- The unemployment rate in Finland was 8,1% in October 2016.
- The most common occupations of women: practical nurse, salesperson, cleaner, nurse, office worker, teacher
- The most common occupations of men: construction worker, truck driver, salesperson, mechanic, technology specialist
- There's labour shortage in specialist doctors, nurses, dentists, kindergarten teachers, social workers, special education teachers, telemarketers etc.



The economy sectors in Finland

- The percentage of primary production in Finland is small, a few percent.
- The sector of manufacturing and refining is about 22%. The largest industries are metal products, forest industry, chemicals and electronics.
- About 73% of the employees in Finland work on service sector.

